

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03172 01 OF 02 211722Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-01 SSO-00 /035 W
-----108419 211736Z /43

O R 211712Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6043

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03172

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO GW BE US

SUBJECT: SHAPE-EUCOM COLLOCATION

REFS: (A) CINCEUR ECJ5 2657 DTG 171628Z FEB 78;

(B) BONN 779 DTG 161124Z JAN 78;

(C) STATE 4586 DTG 070158Z JAN 78;

(D) BONN 21141 DTG 221141Z DEC 77;

(E) BRUSSELS 1137 DTG 191812Z JAN 78

1. THE CHARGE RAISED THE EUCOM-SHAPE WARTIME
COLLOCATION PROPOSAL WITH FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL
DIRECTOR BLECH ON FEBRUARY 20. ON THE BASIS OF REFTEL
(A), THE CHARGE INFORMED BLECH THAT FUNDS FOR THE
COLLOCATION PROJECT HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FY-79 DOD
BUDGET AND THAT THE FIRST HEARINGS ON THE REQUEST WOULD
BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 27. FOLLOWING UP A REQUEST WE HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03172 01 OF 02 211722Z

MADE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE THE WEEK BEFORE, THE CHARGE
ASKED BLECH FOR A STATUS REPORT ON FRG INTERNAL
CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL.

2. BLECH STATED THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD BEEN SUBMITTED
TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT
IT BE APPROVED, BUT THAT GENSCHER HAD NOT YET ACTED ON

IT. HE ADDED THAT THE MEMORANDUM WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO GENSCHER EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT A DECISION IN FAVOR OF COLLOCATION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND FRG AUTHORITIES, AND THAT THE FRG WOULD RESERVE FOR ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMING THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND STUTTGART AUTHORITIES AT THE PROPER TIME. IT NOTED THAT THE FRG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NEED FOR VERY CAREFUL PRESS TREATMENT, WHICH WAS TO BE HARMONIZED BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AUTHORITIES.

3. BLECH ALSO RECALLED THAT THE FRG HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE CONTINGENCY PRESS LINE SHOULD BE MODIFIED IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE DUAL ROLE OF SACEUR/CINCEUR AND TO MAKE EVEN CLEARER THE EMPHASIS ON "WARTIME" COLLOCATION. (THIS SUGGESTION WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL D.)

4. NOTING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF PRESENTING THE MATTER TO THE PUBLIC AT THE PROPER TIME AND IN THE PROPER WAY, BLECH EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE INFORMATION THAT THE PROJECT WAS INCLUDED IN THE DOD BUDGET AND ASKED WHETHER THIS AND THE IMMINENT HEARINGS MEANT THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS LIKELY TO BE SURFACED BY THE PRESS. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED OF THE BUDGET HANDLING AND WAS NOT CERTAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 03172 01 OF 02 211722Z

WHETHER THE FEBRUARY 27 HEARINGS WOULD BE OPEN OR

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PAGE 01 BONN 03172 02 OF 02 211723Z
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6044
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SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03172

LIMDIS

CLOSED.

5. BLECH SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS, IN VIEW OF THE DANGER OF EARLY PUBLICITY, THAT AN URGENT DECISION WAS REQUIRED. HE UNDERTOOK TO DO WHATHE COULD TO ASSURE EARLY CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE BY GENSCHER.

6. COMMENT. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY EUCOM (REF A), OUR PROGNOSIS REMAINS THAT THE FRG WILL PROBABLY AGREE EVENTUALLY WITH THE US PROPOSAL. THE CONCERNS WHICH GERMAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED IN THE PAST REMAIN RELEVANT, HOWEVER, AND BLECH'S POINT THAT THE FRG WISHES TO BE THE ONE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE AREA WHICH WILL BE MOST AFFECTED BY THE MOVE REMAINS VALID. IT IS THUS ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOT ATTEMPT IN ANY PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ANTICIPATE A GERMAN DECISION, THUS SEEMING TO ANNOUNCE FRG VIEWS BEFORE THERE HAVE BEEN FEDERAL/LOCAL CONSULTATIONS.

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PAGE 02 BONN 03172 02 OF 02 211723Z

7. IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO POSTPONE THE HEARINGS ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL A GERMAN (AND BELGIAN) DECISION IS AT HAND. THE DANGER OF PRESS PLAY WHICH MIGHT ERRONEOUSLY SUGGEST THAT EUCOM WAS MOVING OUT OF STUTTGART WOULD ONLY COMPOUND THE CONCERNS WHICH GERMAN LABOR UNIONS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE EXPRESSING OVER WIDELY PUBLICIZED RECOMMENDATIONS IN DECEMBER THAT US FORCES TAKE STEPS TO PROVIDE MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN DEPENDENTS BY REPLACING LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE FEBRUARY 27

HEARINGS DESCRIBED IN REF (A) WILL BE OPEN OR CLOSED;

(B) RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION IN REFTEL (D) CONCERNING
FRG REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS IN THE CONTINGENCY
PRESS LINE, ALONG WITH ANY MODIFICATIONS IN THAT LINE
NECESSITATED BY BELGIAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN PARA 6,
REF (E).

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